

NOTE: Please correct/add any items that I missed in preparing this draft. So many of you added valuable comments and I am certain I did not record some details adequately.

MINUTES (DRAFT, 7/29/13)

Michigan War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission Meeting

10:00 a.m., Monday, July 29, 2013

Harbor Springs Museum, Harbor Springs MI

Present: Eric Hemenway, Russ Magnaghi, Dick Micka,
Dennis Moore, Ralph Naveaux, Phil Porter
Guest Randy Marquardt
By Phone: Brian Dunnigan, Jim McConnell, Jim Spurr
Absent: Bob Bury, David Hales, Molly Luempert-Coy, George Zimmermann

The meeting was called to Order at 10:00 a.m. by Phil Porter, Chairman

The March 11, 2013, Meeting Minutes were approved with the addition of two motions that had been approved electronically by the Commission in the time between the December 2012 meeting and the March meeting. These motions are:

1. December 2012-Motion submitted by Brian Dunnigan and seconded by Richard Micka to move that the Michigan Commission on the Commemoration of the Bicentennial of the War of 1812 authorize the payment of \$,1462.50 as a supplemental payment to Metrocom International. This amount is to cover costs related to editing and revision as required to obtain the broadcast of the program by Detroit PBS. In return, Metrocom International will promptly deliver the original video materials to the Commission. Motion approved.

2. February 2013 Motion submitted by David Hales and seconded by Eric Hemenway to approve payment of \$1,000 to Motor Cities National Heritage Area for a re-printing of 3,000 copies of the revised "1812 Road Map." The copies will be distributed at the Annual Local History Conference and similar events, to educational leaders, and at key 1812 historic sites in Michigan. Motion carried.

I. Updates and Initiatives

A. Video Documentary Award Nominations-Emmy & HSM

Chris Cook informed us that "Michigan at War: The struggle for the Old Northwest, 1812-1815" was selected to be one of four final nominees for a Michigan Emmy Award. Commissioner Dick Micka represented the Commission at the ceremony. Unfortunately, we were not the recipient. Jim McConnell has now submitted an application to the Historical Society of Michigan for their Media Award. HSM Awards will be presented at their Annual Conference in Kalamazoo, on Fri., Sept. 27.

B. Polo Shirt Orders

Working with Maryne Bentley, Gift Shop Coordinator, RRNBP, we obtained 14 Michigan 1812 polo shirt orders, generating about \$60 net income for both RRNBP and the Commission.

C. Website and Media Update

Jim Spurr stated he has relied on the support provided by Jolene Priest and Jim McConnell for much of the actual promotion efforts. Recent efforts included a press release about today's meeting and an updated calendar of 1812 events shared with many individuals and groups, including the GLW1812BC. A press release will be issued soon on the Sept. 29th Flag Raising Ceremony at the Detroit Historical Museum and others will provide information on all of our key upcoming activities. Information will also be shared with local historical and genealogical societies across the state.

Our DNR "1812" email group (about 1,400 subscribers) will also receive this information as well as the GLW1812BC email group. Please continue to encourage your colleagues to visit our website, www.michigan.gov/war1812 and to sign up to be a part of our 1812 email groups. (Information on how to subscribe is on our website.)

Ralph Naveaux asked if any use had been made of the "This Week in the War of 1812" articles. Jim M. stated that, due to time commitments and challenges faced getting the articles posted on our website, the project has lain dormant for several months. He apologized for not having the time to properly edit the materials and move the information out in a timely manner. Several suggestions were made to revitalize the process. The suggestion was made to focus on preparing articles related directly to key 1812 events in the Old Northwest as well as other related activities across the entire area engulfed in the conflict.

Jim Spurr stated that the "1812 Speakers Bureau" has been very successful, involving several Commissioners making presentations to civic organizations across the state, generating even more publicity and public awareness of the significance of the War of 1812 for Michigan citizens.

D.. Education Initiatives

In the absence of David Hales, Jim Mc. stated that David will be making presentations at upcoming October conferences of the Michigan Council for History Education (Grand Valley State University and the Michigan Council for the Social Studies (Lansing). Also, he worked with Annette and Jim M. to produce an online K-12 War of 1812 Resource Guide. Ralph Naveaux added that David had helped lead a teacher workshop at the River Raisin National Battlefield Park for educators from Monroe County ISD and Wayne RESA.

Jim also mentioned that David and he had been discussing developing a 4-12th grade Essay Contest on Legacy/Importance of the War of 1812. The contest will be offered in Fall 2014, with

Awards Ceremony held in Detroit on Sat., March 28, 2015, prior to the “Grand Pacification Ball” Commemorative Dinner at the Detroit Historical Museum.

E. 2013-2014-2015 Calendar of 1812 Events & Commission Meetings

Jim M. briefly described the series of upcoming activities and encouraged all Commissioners to complete and return the RSVP Response Form to him as soon as possible.

All Commissioners were encouraged to disseminate the various promotional flyers to all potential participants, using their email networks.

The key events included the Sun., Sept. 29th, Flag Raising (NOTE: Eric Perkins, a Michigan Historical Center historian has written a brief article describing the Sept. 29, 1813, return of the Star Spangled Banner to Detroit; Jim expressed appreciation to Eric and said the article will be broadly distributed as part of the event promotion); the Sun., Oct. 13 SE Michigan Tour; and the Mon., Oct. 14 Symposium. He mentioned a 6:30 p.m., Sun., Oct. 13 Dinner at Traffic Jam in Detroit and the next Commission meeting 10 am on Tues., Oct. 15 at the Detroit Historical Museum.

Ralph Naveaux added that the RRNBP is planning a “Americans return to Frenchtown” event for Sat., Sept. 28th. He will contact Dan Downing to obtain more details.

Jim thanked Janina Jacobs and John Gibson for their assistance obtaining the Detroit Public Library as a Michigan for the American Society of Marine Artists (ASMA) “Naval War of 1812” Exhibit. Several Commissioners have agreed to offer a “War of 1812 Lecture Series” on Saturdays while the exhibit is open to the public from late Jan. to early March in 2014.

A motion was approved to provide \$1,000 support to the Detroit Public Library for this initiative. We will ask for 50 copies to be provided to the Commission as part of this donation. The Commission will also have a display table for 1812 materials in the exhibit area and will participate in the Opening Reception and present a series of six lectures during the time the exhibit is open.

For a commemoration of the signing of the Treaty of Ghent on Dec. 24, 1814, the Commission will promote a Church Bell Ringing at Noon; or 1 p.m.. This will avoid evening confusion with bells ringing for Christmas Eve services. We plan to also involve other faiths, too-Jewish; Muslim; Hindu; Sikh; Buddhist; Jain, etc., as well as community organizations.

Looking to 2013, Phil mentioned that planning is begging for the reenactment of the August 4, 1814, Battle of Mackinac Island. Brian Dunnigan has actively been researching the topic.

On behalf of Bob Bury, Jim M. reported that a very productive meeting had created a basic program for the GRAND PACIFICATION BALL COMMEMORATIVE DINNER at the Detroit Historical Museum. A motion was approved to hold event on Saturday, March 28, 2015, following the format proposed by the planning committee.

F. Legacy Options

After mentioning that we had completed our key legacy initiative, the documentary “Michigan at War: The Struggle for the Old Northwest, 1812-1815,” Phil asked Jim M. to lead a discussion of possible legacy initiatives, assuming that the Commission is able to generate a substantial budget balance by the end of 2013. Noting that most options require longterm planning if they are to be implemented by the completion of the Michigan War of 1812 Commission’s work in 2015, we need to make decisions by our October 15 meeting in Detroit. Initial options discussed included:

1. Publication-Reprint, with support material, of “Michigan in the War of 1812”
2. Donate remaining funds to MSHP & RRNBP (& DHS?);
3. Develop 1-2 State Historical Markers (a. Hull Invasion/Surrender; b. Return of US Control to Detroit/Grand Pacification Ball; & c. Sibley House? but not built until 1846.

Discussion brought out an interest in creating a permanent legacy, such as a publication or historical markers. Ralph Naveaux mentioned that the RRNBP has expressed an interest in obtaining a State of Michigan Historical Marker for the Battles of the River Raisin and noted that Monroe County has already posted several of their markers describing key events of that event. Dick Micka mentioned that Detroit 300 had produced a boxed commemorative coin set as a collector’s item.

G. The Commission’s Archival Materials

A list of archival materials currently on file was shared with the Commission. It will be revised and consolidated prior to submitting Michigan’s 1812 Commission records to the Archives of Michigan in 2015. Jim has briefly discussed the procedure with State Archivist Mark Harvey.

III. Member and Historic Site Reports

Eric Hemenway reported that he was very pleased with the attendance at the “Odawa in the War of 1812” Exhibit at the Harbor Springs Museum. He is discussing the possibility of creating it as a traveling exhibit to use in Monroe. He also is discussing possible use of the exhibit materials with the National Park Service 1812 initiative and is willing to work with other sites to have them host the exhibit.

Dick Micka shared a copy of a Monroe “Visioning” report describing plans for future actions in Monroe, including the RRNBP, the RRNBP Foundation, and other organizations. He also reported that a recent lightning strike has caused a fire in the Sawyer House, which is now under repair by the City of Monroe. With Ralph Naveaux, he discussed a recent visit by the Wyandotte Tribe from Oklahoma to the Battlefield, other 1812 historic sites, and meetings with the Wyandotte tribe of SE Michigan.

Russ Magnaghi reported that he is working to host the Canadian Military Museum exhibit at Northern Michigan University and might be able to provide a student to serve as an editorial assistant in producing materials on selected key 1812 historical events in the region.

Brian Dunnigan reported that the Toledo Museum of Art is hosting an 1812 exhibit in the fall (Aug. 9-Nov. 10?). Several items from the Clements are included in the display. Dennis Moore said he will provide more background information on the exhibit. Brian also provided an update on the status of the temporary re-location of the Clements Library. They plan to have a Reading Room available by Oct. 1st

Dennis Moore reported that the Canadian War Museum 1812 Traveling Exhibit, already displayed in Monroe, will be featured at Northern Michigan University next winter, with a possible future display at Wayne State University. Jim Spurr asked for more information to share with the Michigan Shipwreck Museum. Dennis also provided background information on the upcoming events commemorating the Battle of Fort Stephenson in Fremont, Ohio. Dr. Roy Norton and he will be in attendance at the closing ceremony on Sunday, August 4th. Dennis added that Dr. Norton has written a letter of support for the nomination of "Border Crossings" for an HSM Book Award and for the nomination of the book for a Canadian-American History Book Award.

Jim Spurr reported that "Friends Good Will" is about to begin a six week journey in conjunction with Tall Ships America, traveling from Chicago to various Ontario sites, to Put-in-Bay and to join the Niagara in Erie, PA. He, and others, are beginning to work on a 2014 visit by the Niagara to Lake Huron and Lake Michigan ports, possibly relating to the American attack on Fort Mackinac in August 1814. Jim S. added that the Niagara was one of the transport ships bringing the United States back to take possession of Fort Mackinac in July 1815.

Jim McConnell said C Span 3 American History will broadcast an 1812 program at 10:30 a.m., Sat., August 3rd. it will feature presentations by Donald Graves and Alan Taylor. He urged Commissioners to return their RSVP forms as soon as possible. Jim M. stated that the Detroit Historical Museum is offering a series of special programs in Sept. & Oct. focusing on the War of 1812. He expressed thanks to Rebecca McDonald, DHS Manager of Programs, for her efforts and promised to share an updated calendar with the Commission as soon as possible. Jim also noted that Jim Conway has provided him with information on the Sept. 8, 1815, signing of the Treaty of Spring Wells between the U.S. government and several native American tribes. It was one of several documents negotiated after the War of 1812.

Phil Porter stated that a planning committee of MSHP staff is meeting next week to begin forming plans for the August 4, 2014, reenactment of the Battle of Mackinac Island. This will be one of the key events for the 1812 Commission and will be followed in July 2015 with a ceremony marking the return of the Star Spangled Banner to Fort Mackinac and the final meeting of the Commission.

Next Meeting; Tuesday, Oct. 15, 2013, 10 a.m., Detroit Historical Museum.